

REMARKS

Claims 15, 20, and 22-27 are pending. By this Response, claims 20 and 25 are amended and claim 21 is canceled. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and below comments are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 is objected to because, in line 4, the term "first" was misspelled.

In response, claim 20 has been amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 21 has been canceled, and claim 25 has been amended to depend from independent claim 15. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Application in Condition for Allowance

Claims 15, 22 and 26 are indicated in the Office Action as being allowed. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that claims 20, 23, 24 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection set forth in the Office Action.

In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding issues have been addressed. Therefore, claims 15, 20 and 22-27 are now allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested by the Applicants.


Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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